

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 20, 23 and 25-28 are canceled, and claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 29-36 are now pending for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 18 has been amended to correct several typographical errors, and to add the recitation of claim 20, now canceled. Claim 19 has been amended to add the recitation of a solvent and a base and is supported, for example, on page 69, last paragraph. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 18. Claims 21 and 22 are supported, for example, on page 71, lines 15-21. No new matter is added.

Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 3-10 of the Office Action. Claim 20 has been canceled, and the recitation of claim 20 added to claim 18. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 18. Claims 21 and 22 refer to the organic solvent and coupling agent, respectively, in the coupling reaction of compounds of formula II and III, and are supported on page 71, lines 15-21 of the specification as filed. Applicants believe the rejection has been overcome and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 18-22, 24 and 29-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 10 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 18 and 19 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants believe the rejection has been overcome and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Should there be any issues that have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney.

If any fees other than those submitted herewith are due in connection with this response, including the fee for any required extension of time (for which Applicants hereby petition), please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 500329.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen D. Prodnuk
Stephen D. Prodnuk, Ph.D.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,020

Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc./A Pfizer Company
Patent Department
10777 Science Center Drive
San Diego, California 92121
Phone: (858) 622-3087
Fax: (858) 678-8233